

The Alcester Grammar School
Record
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1995 -1996

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Head's Report 1995-96

Buildings

In previous editions of *The Record* we reported on some of the building changes which grant-maintained status has enabled.

1995 saw the completion of the first major project in our Master Plan, the Technology/Art/Business Block. The size and airiness of the rooms has made a far better teaching and learning environment. As a knock-on effect the Home Economics/Food Technology Department has been re-sited in the refurbished old Technology Block, now with two rooms. The old HEFT room has been transformed into a Drama Studio next to the Music Rooms, so that we have a Performing Arts Suite adjacent to the new Hall Extension.

Plans now go ahead for the extension of the three storey block and for a new General Science laboratory. These will be built in 1997-98, creating an enclosed quadrangle in the centre of the school.

Part of the result of all this has been a diminution in the number of temporary buildings, much to everyone's relief. Future plans involve better provision for sixth form buildings, and hopes that we might have a Sports Hall one day.

Curriculum

The school has now returned to compulsory Technology in Years 10 and 11 as obliged by law. We have also now two fully fledged Advanced General National Vocational Qualifications in Business and Art and Design. These course are well-established and popular and students are gaining entry to higher education with them.

Staff Changes

We welcomed a number of new staff in 1995. many of them young enough to considerably reduce the average age of the whole staff ! Mrs Claire Whitmore joined us to teach History from the University of Warwick; amongst her many talents is cornet playing for a Salvation Army Band. Dr Carrie Harrison has

come to teach Chemistry from a PGCE at Nottingham Trent University after a PhD at Loughborough University; she is a keen netball player at County standard. David Bruce has come to us via an Engineering degree and PGCE at Cambridge to teach Physics and has, with Mrs Whitmore, taken over the guidance of the Christian Fellowship. Geraldine Pettit teaches French and has the experience of a year in Japan; she joins us from Oxford University where she did her PGCE and Aston University where she studied French and Psychology. Pamela O'Mahony has had several years of experience in teaching Biology at Moseley School in Birmingham and has a lively interest in horse-riding. Geoff Rees teaches Computer Studies part-time, becoming yet another teacher with children in the school. David Smith has arrived as Head of Art, in time to produce order out of chaos of a department moving to a new area. He came from a sixth form college in Southampton. Our German Assistant, Andreas Schlenger, was much appreciated. Andrea Jones came for a year to teach, part-time, Business Studies and Economics and has now returned to her native South Wales. Lindsay Isabella came and went, covering Mrs Doubleday's secondment and made her mark ably. John Martin leaves after several years generous service in the Art Department where his expertise in both Graphic Design and the world of business has benefited our students greatly.

We also have to say goodbye to some teachers who have been with us for shorter periods, but who have nevertheless contributed to the work of the school very greatly. Andrea Jones (Business Studies), Mandy Wright (English/Theatre Studies), Judith Berry (German) and June Hedges (Chemistry - and mother of no fewer than three Old Scholars !) go with all our good wishes and thanks for their good service.

Mrs Laure Redfern, on the other hand, left only temporarily in July to have a baby; we hope to see her back in January 1997. Meanwhile our hopes and good wishes go with her.

At the end of the year we were sad to say farewell to Wendy Johnson, for

many years a part-time teacher of Geography. Her experience, expert knowledge, wisdom and kindness will be warmly remembered by many students as well as staff. During Mrs Beesley's maternity leave (congratulations on the birth of Dominic on 5th December 1995!), Mrs Johnson made an obvious and very successful replacement as Head of Geography. We wish her a very happy retirement with Cyril Johnson, for whom a tribute is written elsewhere in *The Record*.

Highlights of the Year, 1995-96

Autumn Term

The HEFT department moves into its new quarters in the refurbished design technology area. Advanced GNVQ students, having spent the summer break researching consumer opinion at Ragley Hall, present the management with a plan for marketing strategy. Sixth form students spend a weekend at the University of York debating "The Consequences of An Ageing Population". Chris Richards (Y12), a member of the National Youth Orchestra, gets into the second round of the BBC *Young Musician of the Year Competition*. The Learning Resource Centre gets going again, now in its facelifted form with new shelves for easier browsing.

Oliver Raison, Richard Stanford and Richard Clayton are selected for the South/Mid Warwickshire U16 Rugby squad. Dean Richards visits the school for fund raising in aid of the charity *Sparkes*. The U16 Rugby team defeat Kineton 43-12. Fiona Gibson (Y11) is again selected for the Worcestershire U16 Hockey 1st XI. The U13 tennis team wins the Midland Bank League.

Students go to see productions of *Hamlet*, *The Crucible*, *The Cherry Orchard*, *Richard III* and *The Alchemist*. The senior drama group *Absolute Beginners* produces *The Dracula Spectacular* at the school. Book Week takes place again, and students seek sponsors for *Readathon*.

Students in Y12 GNVQ Art design a school calendar for sale at Christmas time

and Y13 students work on a commission to decorate a childrens' play area.

The History Department takes students to Kenilworth and Goodrich Castles to gather information for GCSE coursework.

Y7 students go to Drayton Manor Park over the half term holiday.

The new Technology/Art/Business Studies Block opens (The new HEFT area was mentioned above). Work starts on the conversion of the *former* HEFT area to a drama studio. Work also starts on amendments to the driveway so that we will have only two access gates, and get some extra parking space, as well as making things safer for pedestrians around the entrance.

The Autumn Concert takes place, followed shortly by Block Week, during which students try a lot of different activities. A new one this year was a Y8 Biology visit to Worcestershire College of Agriculture with Mr German and Mrs O'Mahony. Biology also organizes a Y12 working party on a local nature reserve. Y10 go to Marle Hall as usual and Y11 go out on work experience. A party of Art students and musicians visits Prague to study the Art of the place and play some music. Still in Block Week, Y9 try lino printing, some Y13 students visit art galleries in London, Y7 design and make totem poles, the French Department with Y13 students go to Paris, HEFT and Business Studies students visit IMI Cornelius for presentations on "Product Development", and to Birmingham for lectures on "Dietary Change and Energy Efficiency". Y8 Geographers go to Evesham for Block Week field research. Katy Lisle represents Warwickshire in the U18B hockey team. Lyndsey McFarlane (Y10) wins the Warwickshire U16 Restricted Badminton Tournament. Lizzie Boyce (Y9) is selected to represent the county in the National Fencing Championships. Sarah Bratton (Y13) is to represent Warwickshire in the National Cross Country Championships. Fiona Gibson (Y11) is selected for the U16 Midland Hockey Squad. Our U14 Hockey team win the South Warwickshire tournament. James Bowler and Ian Hickman (Y11 both) are selected for the Warwickshire cross country team.

Ruth Chan (Y12) is awarded the British Federation Exceptional Performance Certificate at the Birmingham Music Festival. Chris Richards re-auditions for the National Youth Orchestra and is accepted again.

Alice Poulter, Shelley Nicholls and their friends in 9S organize a disco at the school and raise £130 for charity.

In November also comes the Annual parents/governors AGM, and the term ends with the Parents' Association Christmas Coffee morning, the Carol Service and Leavers Night, all rounded off by the Sixth Form Pantomime on the last afternoon of term.

Spring Term

Ofsted sends news that we are to be named as "An Outstandingly Successful School"; general rejoicing. Fiona Gibson (Y11) attends trials for selection of the U16 hockey squad. Alexis Carter (Y9) is selected to play for the Warwickshire U14 hockey squad.

Hannah Saunders (Y12) passes her flute exam, Helen Davey her French Horn exam and Abbey Wright her saxophone exam, all at Grade VIII. Abbey achieved the highest marks of all last term's Associated Board saxophone examinees. A Composers' Forum is held in the Hall extension one evening. A senior ensemble from AGS is selected to play at the Warwickshire Schools Music Festival at Bedworth.

Robert Abbott, Yazmin Juned, Jill Misson, Zoë Morgan and James Smith gain provisional Oxbridge places, and Zoë is awarded an RAF Flying Scholarship, thereby gaining a place at Cranwell for Officer Training.

Ten AGS students attend a conference on the Holocaust, organized by the Anne Frank Society.

The Chemistry Department takes students to an interesting (and gruesome, in more ways than one) lecture on forensic science at the University of Birmingham.

Year 7 students have a talk and demonstration on puppet making from Neil Sterenberg, a professional puppet maker.

Jan Bonney (our Rugby coach) is selected to play for the British Universities rugby team. Fiona Gibson (Y11) is successful at the England hockey trials, plays a practice match against Scotland and scores a goal. Alexis Carter (Y9), represents Warwickshire in a hockey match against Leicestershire. Gemma Collins wins the Midland Counties Indoor High Jump Championships, with a jump of 1.45 metres. Ioan Rees (Y9) is selected for the West Midlands regional table tennis finals. More success at fencing. Adam Vickery, Jeffery Jones and Alex Weatherall (all Y10) win the West Midlands Foil Championships, beating no less an opponent than Shrewsbury School. Sarah Bratton, Matt Frost (both Y12), Liz Wakeling, James Bowler (Y10 both) and David Hawkes (Y9), represent Warwickshire in the All England Schools Cross Country Championships. James Baty, Oliver Furlow, James Bacon, Adam Collins and Katy Mileto represent South Warwickshire in the Minor (Y6 & Y7) Inter Area cross country races.

James Long (Y11), gains a Bronze Award in the *Physics Challenge* contest organized by the Institute of Physics.

Fiddler on The Roof is produced at the school in March and is the success we all expected. The annual Music Competition (organized by Mr Dobell and Mrs Bradley) presents a wide variety of items and entertains the audience hugely. Eleven small groups of AGS students perform at the Warwickshire Chamber Music Festival at St Faith's School and do well.

Eight of the advanced GNVQ students visit the European Parliament in Brussels as guests of our Euro MP John Corrie, and follow this up with a reception at the British Embassy, and a visit to ICI's local headquarters. Nick Waters and Andrew McArthur gain scholarships from Peugeot, in return for studying French as well as GNVQ Business. They will also have the opportunity of work experience at Ryton.

AGS students in Y12 perform a piece in Leamington which they wrote themselves to raise funds for the exhibition to commemorate Anne Frank. Other students go to see *Mother Courage* in London, *Macbeth* in Stoke on Trent, *Julius Caesar* in Stratford and *The Entertainer* in Birmingham. Geography students in Y12 go to North Wales for their annual field course, and do some good work despite the rather cold weather. Y12 students attend the *Careers 2000* exhibition at the NEC.

Beccy Key (Y10) gains the *Baden Powell Trefoil*, one of the highest awards a guide can achieve.

Summer Term

The Headteacher announces that Psychology A level is to be added to the curriculum, and that work is shortly to start on the second part of our new block. Year 13 take part in a *Hamlet* day school at the Shakespeare Centre and trips go to *The White Devil* and *As You Like It*. The Junior production in July is to be *Song for a Dark Queen* - about Boudicca.

Lyndsey McFarlane wins the South Warwks. Badminton Championship. Alexis Carter does splendidly in the 100 metres and the long jump in the TSB Schools Field and Track Cup and goes on to win the Warwickshire individual pentathlon championship with 2441 points to her credit. A team composed of Alexis, Gemma Collins, Bekki Palmer and Geni Duffill finishes as second team in the same contest. and all of them are selected for the South Warwks. County Athletics Championships. News arrives that Fiona Gibson is to tour South Africa in the summer with the English Hockey Squad. Sixty German students join us on their annual exchange visit. French students, on the other hand, here on a joint exchange with St. Benedicts, go back to France and five of ours return from work experience at Saumur in France.

Ruth Chan gives a recital at the Warwick Arts festival in July. Year 12 provide a group to play at Upton House on National Music Day and another to play at Ragley Hall tea rooms. *Urban Strawberry Lunch* come to give Y7 two whole-

day workshops on *The Science of Sound* and *Rhythmic Drumming*. Associated Board Exams again.

Mrs Doubleday is to run lunchtime theatre workshops for Y10. The Sixth Form enjoy a coffee party with the staff before they leave to face the fury of the examiners. The Internet is to be available on Thursday mornings in the Learning Resource Centre, with help provided by Marcia Ferrailo, an American visitor. Eight Year 11 students and Mr Bruce visit the Engineering Open Day at The University of Birmingham. We hear that one of our Y12 students who came to AGS from St. Benedict's plans to spend the summer doing Voluntary Service in Mozambique as part of a group who will be setting up a clinic there.

Twenty-seven Year 7 students do *Maths challenge* and are awarded seventeen certificates with three Golds, going to Nicky Martin, Chris Rees and Caroline Archer. Thirteen Year 8 students gain 10 certificates in the same contest, with Kate Harris (best in school) and Gemma Johnson awarded Gold.

Mr Cowell, Mr Simpson and Mr Micklethwaite, with Dan Hartwell, Peter Sturdey and Jon Carrivick (all of Y12) complete the 15 peaks course in Snowdonia. Gemma Collins and Alexis Carter are selected for the Warwickshire Athletics team to go to the National Championships. Mrs Brookes takes ten Year 8 students to a Tennis Coaching Clinic at Edgbaston.

The Junior Production *Song For A Dark Queen* is a great success. Abbey Wright (Y10) and Duncan Thomas are selected to work with the National Youth Theatre in the summer. Jonathan Statham (Y9) wins the Arden Cup for Solo Acting and also the Prepared Reading Competition in the Leamington Festival.

Lucy Tugwell (clarinet - distinction), Alison Harris (piano - merit) and Daniela Evans (violin) all gain Grade 8 in their music exams. A near record number (270) of people take music exams in the summer at AGS.

Year 7 visit Warwick Castle with the History Department for two days to do basic research into the question of how to attack the edifice. Nicola Martin of Year 7 wins the logo design competition for the LRC and is awarded a book token.

Zoë Morgan (Year 12) is provisionally accepted for a University bursary in the provost branch of the R.A.F. with the offer of a permanent commission for sixteen years. Planning permission is received for the three storey extension and new Science laboratory.

The year ends with *Showing Off* by *Absolute Beginners* - a brilliant concoction of various entertaining items accompanied by the customary trimmings on a balmy evening in July. Several staff, some with many years of service to their credit leave the school at the end of the term. See the *Head's Report* for more details.

The Geography Field Trip To Marle Hall

Monday morning - everybody packed, everybody ready and everybody looking forward to a week off school!

The journey started off well, the "just seventeens" flew back and forth across the coach and everybody was in a good mood, until we hit Wales. You could tell we were in Wales by the increase in sheep and sharp bends.

Fittingly we arrived at Marle Hall in typical Welsh weather - it was raining! Those pros who had been to Marle Hall before were quickly unpacked and fitted out with cardboard-stiff walking boots and a delightful rainbow range of sweaty waterproofs - things were going as usual.

Straight away we were sent off to do a woodland study, which was uneventful despite Sam and Tim destroying all equipment given to them. However, on return to the Hall, we realised we were not alone. The invaders were a party of eleven year olds from a Birmingham middle school. Our worries were soon abated when we realized we could reduce them to a quivering mess with just

one look.

The next two days were spent freezing to death either in Llandudno or up a mountain, the only incident being when a pole was left behind and our heroes Tom Hill and Guy had to run 3 miles to retrieve it. There were occasional surprises. For example when the food was half-way decent (*Cordon Bleu* it was not), and when Sam, Seb and Aaron woke up one morning to find that their hair had changed colour.

For the rest of the week we were kept amused by visits to Dinorwig Power Station, The National Park, Betws-y-Coed and of course by Mr Stenger's amusing banter. The boys took to amusing themselves by planning night time raids on each other, the ammunition consisting of gel and toothpaste. The bottles of wine in the staffroom could explain how the teachers managed to put up with us for the week!

By the end of the week everybody was exhausted and ready to go home. A good time had been had by all.

P.S. Thanks to Susie for playing Mummy.

Group effort by Judith Wood and friends

Song For a Dark Queen

July is the time of the annual Junior School production, presented by Mr Johnson, and this year saw the play of *Song for a Dark Queen*. Unlike most of the previous junior plays it was serious, had a sad ending and was primarily a visual, not a verbal play.

It relates the story of how the British tribes led by Boudicca, of the Iceni, fought against the Roman Invasion. The tale is unfolded as Cadwan of the Harp relives the rebellion which culminated in the great battle of Colchester. The tribes lived their lives around spectacle and movement and their slightly strange musical speech patterns made line-learning even harder. A tremendous amount of hard work was put in behind the scenes.

For instance the Iron Age tribes painted their bodies and fought naked and I think that most of the audience and cast would have objected to this! So the costume department had a hard time. The play moved quickly and the setting was simple so the lighting was relied upon to set the scene.

As the three big nights approached the cast and Mr Johnson started paicking a bit. The dress rehearsal wasn't up to much so everyone panicked even more. Some actually decided to learn their lines!

The performances were all a great success. Well done, to all the cast and everyone backstage. Oh, and well done to Mr Johnson for taking on about fifty screaming stamping armed warriors!

Lindsay Smith, Y8

European Work Experience

In April, forty students from Warwickshire (including five from Alcester Grammar School Y12) were lucky enough to take part in a European Work Experience Exchange to Saumur in France. We spent ten days working full-time in various institutions, living as the guests of several French college students, and experiencing their student culture at every opportunity.

Work experience placements for the whole exchange programme were as diverse as primary schools, department stores and an equestrian centre. This hospitality had been reciprocated earlier in the year when the French students arrived in England for their work experience placements in Warwickshire.

Being thrown into an intensive situation where we had to be prepared to cope with all eventualities in a foreign language, and to be competent and polite with customers, was difficult yet satisfying, with the knowledge that we were dependent on ourselves for survival.

Elspeth Dawes Y12

The Sixth Form Council

The role of the sixth form Council very much depends on the needs and demands of sixth form members, and a principal role this year has been to provide good communication between staff and students.

Each sixth form group elects two Council members, one from each year who attend monthly Council meetings, prior to which all sixth form students have the opportunity to put forward comments and suggestions in discussion times held in each tutor group.

Presently, for example, the Council is seeking ideas to raise money for the sixth form fund and all Council members come to meetings with new ideas and feedback on previous suggestions. This ensures that every member of the sixth form can have an input into Council decisions. It is also very important that all sixth formers are able to comment on how any money raised is spent - the sixth form fund is often used to subsidize social events but can also be used to pay for facilities that will benefit everyone.

One of the more frequently discussed matters this term has been sixth form uniform. Again it is the role of the Council to ensure that every Sixth Former is able to express an opinion, as any changes will inevitably involve every student.

Last December (1995) Year 12 Council members organized the junior Christmas party, which included games and a disco. At the same time other members of the Council discovered how complicated and frustrating it is to organize the sixth form Christmas pantomime which this year was being rewritten up until five minutes before its performance!

Whilst Council membership can be demanding at times, it is, on balance, a very worthwhile experience and good practice for committees in universities

and other fields. The sixth form council is the closest we have to democracy and its achievements are due not only to its members, but to the entire sixth form.

Katie Allen Y12

The Woodwind Ensemble Plus Lucy

Despite a distinct lack of skill, enthusiasm and quality rehearsal time the Lower Sixth Woodwind Ensemble has appeared in a variety of Musical events this year.

First of all there was Prague - the Arts visit - where we were invited to stun a Czech music school with our raw British talent. At least for this performance we managed to notch up about four weeks of performance - quite a phenomenal amount. We entered the music school quietly confident - after all we had practised, so we *had* to be good.

Having sat through the performance of a pianist aged seven, who looked uncannily like Mozart, and two budding Nigel Kennedys, our collective confidence began to wane a little. Even so we performed bravely if a little apprehensively, and recovered from our acute embarrassment with time. What we didn't realise at this point was that this was as good as it was going to get.

Our next performance was for the local ladies Probus group's Christmas dinner at the King's Court Motel. After moving a few tables, chairs, display cabinets and other pieces of furniture, a corner was found for us to sit in. We managed to perform the dance suite that we had grown to know and love so much in Prague relatively successfully. This was in spite of elbows being stuck in bowls of jelly and the odd splash of poorly located gravy. The Christmas carols also went down well, with our audience happily singing along. It has to be said that this was probably the most enthusiastic audience that we had ever played for. Perhaps all those bottles of red wine that we could see being emptied had something to do with it.

The next appearance of the by now well established group was at St. Faith's Junior School, as part of the Warwickshire Arts Festival. This time we were performing not only for an audience but for a group of adjudicators as well. A successful performance in this event would have resulted in selection for a concert in Bedworth. Needless to say we were not selected but the adjudicators did have some very complimentary things to say about us. Whether they were genuinely impressed or just being kind I will never know, although I am inclined to believe the latter.

Our woodwind group is to perform again in five days' time and at the time of writing, we have had two half-hour rehearsals. So as to cut our losses a part of what we have to perform is the same dance suite that we played in all our other events and performances. I am sure that our performance will be, as ever, unusual. Perhaps the most endearing feature of our performances is that no one ever quite knows what's going to happen - everything is a surprise.

I'm sure that the group will continue to thrive next year and Mr. Dobell will continue to encourage us to believe that we are in fact, brilliant; it's just that we haven't found an audience that truly appreciates us yet. After all, Van Gogh never sold a painting in his life.

The group : Laura Collett (saxophone), Ali Harris (clarinet), Mary Harries (flute), Ella Poulter (flute), Lucy Emmerson ('cello), Becky White (flute).

Mary Harries Y12

The Prague Trip

Last year's art trip saw a number of sixth formers spend a week in Prague, the capital of the newly formed Czech Republic.

Prague is a city which has experienced many different eras; a fact we saw immediately reflected in the architecture on display: hillsides littered with huge concrete tower blocks stood as testament to the days of communism in contrast to the great Gothic Cathedral of St. Vitus, which dominated the central

skyline. It seemed appropriate that the most celebrated mediaeval attraction on view, the 14th century Charles Bridge, was closely located to the John Lennon Wall, seen as a symbol of nonconformity and student protest. It is a city of curious opposites. There are also signs that Prague has taken yet another direction with the inevitable formation of a chain of McDonald's Restaurants (which we unfortunately all visited) and the first traffic jams that the city has ever seen.

That's not to say the entire time was spent admiring the surroundings. Although even the simplest Czech sentences were almost impossible to master, somehow everyone discovered the Czech for 'beer, please' and, as always on art trips, there were plenty of opportunities to use the phrase. We found one especially good jazz club where we met people ranging from Australians to Germans who were treated to a very English display of how to enjoy yourself by dancing on (and painfully falling off) chairs and the art of using fragile pieces of furniture as percussion instruments. This invariably continued at the hotel, where the rooms clearly displayed the fact that a group of teenagers had slept there, being knee-deep in cigarette ash, beer bottles and unrecognisable substances I prefer not to think about. However things did seem to go a bit too far when, on the final day, I woke to find my ears full of 'minty fresh' Colgate, and my face covered in a potentially lethal cocktail of shaving foam, hair mousse, shampoo and anything else Steve Bugden could find in his extensive collection of toiletries. And I still have the toiletries to prove it.

Rob Abbott Y12

The Y9 Trip To Edgbaston

It was on Friday 14th June 1996 that a group of keen Y9 tennis players had the opportunity to go on a day trip to Edgbaston's international ladies tennis tournament.

Setting off at 11.30 a.m. we had plenty of time to spectate some fantastic tennis from some of the world's top lady tennis players. We were all amazed at

the speed and accuracy of the games and experienced the atmosphere of a proper tennis match at first hand.

Later we had the chance to have a go ourselves. It may not have been Centre Court but it was great fun ! I think that we all improved our game in some way by watching and taking part in the tennis at Edgbaston.

Our thanks go to Mrs Brookes for organizing the event.

Jessica Taylor Y9

The Warwickshire School Proms

During the Autumn term 1995, Mr Dobell decided to enter two small sixth form groups for the Warwickshire School Proms. One would play jazzy music, including a novelty foxtrot and the other would perform a nonsense poem, complete with megaphone.

On the day of the auditions, having crammed as many of the larger instruments and music stands as we could into Mr. Dobell's car, we walked round to St. Faiths. Unfortunately our trumpet player was ill, but a teacher from another school volunteered to sight read the part, and played well enough for us to pass through to the final. This meant going to Bedworth and performing in a concert with other schools from around the county. It was snowing heavily on the morning of the concert, but four out of seven of us managed to make it to school (very early in the morning) only to discover that due to the snow the concert was postponed until a later date.

Several months of intense rehearsal later, with yet more changes in performance, we finally arrived at Bedworth (late, having got slightly lost and gone around the same roundabout three times). A couple of minutes later we were on stage performing our nonsense poem, and then (after several attempts) managed to leave the stage. Then we returned home.

Rachel Burgess Y12

Warwick Castle

On Monday 15th June, Year 7 went on a trip to Warwick Castle. The trip was part of a History Project to do with "How to Attack Warwick Castle". We started off and numerous traffic jams later we were there! We started looking at different views of the castle - the 'Main Entrance', the 'Side Entrance' and the 'River Entrance' (which actually wasn't an entrance at all!). At each view we noted down what wouldn't have been there, and what various parts of the castle would be called (e.g. crenellations). We also assessed how we would attack the view and whether it was the most suitable view to attack. After we had done all the views we stopped for lunch. During lunch we saw some ducklings! We then went onto see some of the sites - the Mound, which was also the old lookout point, the Dungeons and Torture Chamber, and the Kingmaker. Most of the group went up onto the curtain wall - we went three-quarters of the way along. We all met up and went to the souvenir shop afterwards. All in all it was a good day apart from the fact that it rained !

Nicky Martin and Katie Salt-Bush, 7S

AGS Canoe Club 1995-96

After an enforced break of four years, the Canoe Club rose from the ashes this summer term. A group of fifteen took part in activities on the River Avon (at Bidford). Richard Evans and Charles Kay (Old Scholars who left the school in July 1995) assisted Mr Cowell, and pupils were taught to load the canoe trailer and keep an eye on the canoes from the minibus whilst *en route* ("How many were there Mr Cowell ?"), unload the canoes, embark, turn circles (sometimes involuntarily), turn half circles, paddle forwards, backwards etc., etc. Capsizes had to be done at some time or other, and everyone got wet.

Mr Cowell (with Mr and Mrs Albon) also took six Sixth Form students to St. Davids, Pembroke (the scene of many past visits by the Canoe Club). The three days of canoeing included scraping past narrow inlets, paddling into

caves, towing other canoes, capsizing, rescuing weary paddlers, looking at lobster pots and trying to catch mackerel. Most "screaming" event - sliding off the harbour (about three metres above the water), in our canoes, into the water. The camping included eating dehydrated meals and convincing yourself that the taste is O.K., waking up with a sore back and neck and seeing the Milky Way galaxy really clearly because of the surrounding darkness.

The highlight of the visit was a two hour ride around Ramsey Island (a boat/seal sanctuary just off the coast) in a 300 horse power jet boat. This was hugely exciting as we raced into large caves, spun dramatically around large rocks in tight steeping turns, and viewed some of the oldest rock formations in the country.

Party members : Dan Hartwell, Peter Sturdey, Jon Carrivick, Katie Allen, Jemma Houghton, Laura Collett.

DC

Duke of Edinburgh Expedition March 1996

"You will have to walk twenty-four kilometres over two days with all your belongings on your back in the hilly Malverns while researching a chosen subject", said Mrs Hughes in a calm, firm voice. The time had come after several anxious training weekends and numerous meetings to do the real one. Our time had come and Mr Simpson said that we were ready. The whole weekend sounded like hell and as Mrs Hughes stood in the well heated H.E. room one question came into my mind : "Why?"

It was 8.30 am on a cold wet Saturday in March and after weighing our rucksacks and finding that mine was half as light as everyone else's (my careful packing worked!), sixteen anxious AGS pupils clambered carefully into the school minibus, unaware of the next two hilly days.

We reached the Malverns and after being given maps and compasses and

several talks on what we were supposed to do, we were off. My group had decided to study the conditions of graveyards. (It was riveting!). Eleven wrong turns, four graveyards, six steep hills and 6 kilometres later the camp site was in sight. Relief was on everyone's faces. Twelve kilometres down and twelve to go.

After putting up our tents and cooking our "just add water" meals in small tin pots there was time to relax and soothe our blister-ridden feet. We managed a quick game of soccer and then we were in bed. As I climbed into my sleeping bag it felt as if I was in the North Pole. It was absolutely freezing.

The next day we were all thinking of home and a long, bubbly bath. The weather was horrendous, but we carried on regardless, singing, chatting, joking and yes, sometimes going the wrong way. The last kilometre seemed to last forever but eventually we were there in the heat of the school minibus and driving back to civilisation.

It had been a long two days but two days I would not have missed ever. The experience and sense of achievement I got from it was amazing, and, if I had the chance I would certainly do it again.

Liz Wakeling Y10

Music Competition

When I looked at the empty chair behind the adjudicator's desk in the Hall at 7.10 on Friday 8th March, 1996 (10 minutes into the annual music competition) I wanted to run away - unlike that adjudicator's car which failed to run away. My schedule of carefully planned timings had already no hope of being rescued. So I fled to the nearest 'phone and persuaded the husband of one judge who had arrived, to swallow his food and 'come on down', which he very kindly did.

How anything worked after that I have very little idea. I just carried on accompanying.

However I am deeply grateful to all this competition's participants, winners and losers (if indeed there were any), as well as a number of people who helped behind the scenes. Thanks also to Mrs Angela Bradley for all her help in accompanying and supporting me and the Parents' Association for the refreshments. Finally, thanks are due to Andrew Hughes and Richard and Gwyneth Osborne, all of whom are skilful at awarding Cadbury's eggs to a well chosen number of deserving performances. In this competition it is the participating that counts (and hopefully) the enjoying. Please keep entering!

RFD

Composers' Forum

The composers' Forum takes place every year around Christmas time and is organised by the Music Department. Anyone from Yrs 7-13 can take part. "Taking part" consists of singing or playing smething that you made up. You may have done it at home or at school, it doesn't matter, but any sort of composition will be appreciated. It usually takes place in the Hall Extension. It is good fun taking part, or just watching and listening to what other people have composed during the year.

Last year, the Composers' Forum gave pupils of all ages a chance to show off their musical talent, by performing some compositions. The compositions varied from a Year Eight Christmas carol, to a Year Eleven GCSE guitar piece. A few Year Sevens also showed off their ability with a pentatonic piece. Year Tens were also involved, with a classical arrangement, complete with added vocals. It was a fun chance to play and sing in front of the public.

There will hopefully be another Composers' Forum sometime in the distant future. We will look forward to a great night of musical enjoyment!

Beth Tash, Y8

Sports Day Results, July 1996

A new record is denoted by *

Junior Boys

100m Y7	1 A. Collins (S)	2 J. Bacon (S)	3 M. Halliday (W)
100m Y8	1 S. Hale (W)	2 B. Fletcher (S)	3 S. Hayward (W)
200m	1 T. Coates (S)	2 J. Bacon (S)	3 H. Phillpotts (W)
400m	1 T. Poultney (W)	2 G. Platt (N)	3 J. Baty (S)
800m	1 T. Coates (S)	2 L. Lewis (W)	3 C. Rees (N)
1500m	1 G. Platt (N)	2 C. Rees (N)	3 B. Fletcher (S)
4X100 "A" Race	1 Spencer	2 Wells	3 Newport
4X100 "B" Race	1 Wells	2 Spencer	3 Newport
Long Jump	1 G. Platt	2 T. Coates	3 S. Hale (W)
High Jump	1 A. Collins (S)	2 D. Furlow (W)	3 L. Lewis (W)
Shot	1 J. Wraight (S)	2 L. Lewis (N)	3 J. Richardson (N)
Discus	1 D. Kerby (N)	2 J. Wraight (S)	3 J. Pickett (W)
Javelin	1 J. Wells	2 D. Kirby (S) tie with S. Hayward (W)	
Cricket Ball	1 C. Long (N)	2 B. Fletcher (S)	3 J. Richardson (N)
Hurdles	1 S. Hale (W)	2 D. Prickett (S)	3 D. Ross (N)

Junior Girls

100m Y7	1 K. Mileto (W)	2 A. Collins (S)	3 G. Fenton (N)
100m Y8	1 J. Gilbert (S)	2 A. Haigh (N)	3 G. Brueton (S)
200m	1 M. Pick (S)	2 A. Collins (S)	3 L. Smith (N)
300m	1 E. Bratt (W)	2 R. Edwards (S)	3 L. Villis (S)
800m	1 A. Vater (S)	2 R. Edwards (S)	3 S. Clevely (W)
1500m	1 K. Mileto (W)	2 A. Vater (S)	3 H. Burrell (S)
4X100 "A" Race	1 Spencer	2 Newport	3 Wells
4X100 "B" Race	1 Wells	2 Spencer	3 Newport
Long Jump	1 J. Gilbert (S)	2 S. Clevely (W)	3 R. Hawes (N)
High Jump	1 A. Vater (S)	2 L. Ellison (N)	3 E. Bratt (W)
Shot	1 J. Gilbert (S)	2 B. Fleming (W)	3 O. Blundell (W)
Discus	1 R. Oldham (N)	2 N. Martin (S)	3 E. Fraser (S)
Javelin	1 M. Pick	2 M. Richards (N)	3 K. Haynes (S)
Rounders Ball	1 M. Richards (N)	2 M. Pick (S)	3 R. Oldham (N)
Hurdles	1 K. Mann (S)	2 K. Harris (W)	3 L. Ellison (N)

Inter Boys

100m Y9	1 T. Marshall (N)	2 A. Lea (N)	3 S. Parker (W)
100m Y10	1 T. Port (S)	2 J. Jones (N)	3 C. Buckle (N)
200m	1 C. Robertson (W)	2 T. Port (S)	3 S. Grinstead (S)
400m	1 S. Horrocks (S)	2 T. Billyard (S)	3 A. Vickery (W)
800m	1 A. Powell (W)	2 A. Drew (S)	3 S. McLaren (N)
1500 m	1 D. Hawkes (S)	2 R. Wilson (N)	3 J. Tupman (S)
4X100 "A" Race	1 Newport	2 Spencer	3 Wells
4X100 "B" Race	1 Spencer	2 Newport	3 Wells
Long Jump	1 S. Tilley (N)	2 C. Robertson (W)	3 T. Edkins (W)
High Jump	1 S. Grinstead (S)	2 J. Jones (N)	3 C. Robertson (W)
Shot	1 C. Buckle (N)	2 J. Cooke (W)	3 T. Marshall (N)
Discus	1 C. Buckle (N)	2 J. Cooke (W)	3 A. Vickery (W)
Javelin	1 S. Grinstead (S)	2 R. Wilson (N)	3 J. Haynes (S)
Hurdles	1 J. Jones (N)	2 A. Drew (S)	3 M. Hatton (W)

Inter Girls

100m Y9	1 R. Palmer (S)	2 C. Joyce (N)	3 N. Ross (W)
100m Y10	1 K. Sergeant (S)	2 L. McFarlane (N)	3 K. Saunders (W)
200m	1 H. Marshall (S)	2 R. Boyall (N)	3 K. Sergeant (S)
300m	1 E. Wakeling (W)	2 L. McFarlane (N)	3 G. Stacey (S)
800m	1 E. Wakeling (W)	2 H. Marshall (S)	3 E. Villis (S)
1500m	1 R. Key (W)	2 K. Lowden (N)	3 G. Stacey (S)
4X100 "A" Race	1 Spencer	2 Wells	3 Newport
4X100 "B" Race	1 Newport	2 Wells	3 Spencer
Long Jump	1 R. Palmer (S)	2 R. Key (W)	3 K. Saunders (W)
High Jump	1 L. McFarlane (N)	2 J. Boots tie with K.	3 Sergeant (S)
Shot	1 K. Popplewell (N)	2 N. Smith (N)	3 N. Horsfield (W)
Discus	1 A. Davies (N)	2 A. Price (S)	3 C. Hancox (W)
Javelin	1 R. Key (W)	2 J. Taylor (S)	3 G. Duffill (W)
Hurdles	1 R. Palmer (S)	2 J. Boots (W)	3 T. Wightman (N)

Senior Boys

100m	1 J. Taylor (N)	2 R. Bentley (W)	3 M. Carter (S)
200m	1 R. Bentley (W)	2 J. Taylor (N)	3 M. Carter (S) tie with D. Hartwell (N)
400m	1 P. Powell (W)	2 D. Hartwell (N)	3 R. Smith (N)
800m	1 P. Powell (W)	2 M. Frost (S)	3 P. Sturdey (W)
1500m	1 P. Sturdey (W)	2 J. Carrivick (N)	3 D. Last (S)

Senior Boys continued

4X100 "A" Race	1 Wells	2 Newport tie with Spencer	
Long Jump	1 J. Taylor (N)	2 G. Lock (W)	3 P. Powell (W)
High Jump	1 J. Bowler (S) *	2 M. Frost (S)	3 R. Stanford (W)
Shot	1 J. Woodman (W)	2 A. Bagshaw (W)	3 J. Havard (S) tie with A. McArthur (N)
Discus	1 S. Norris (N)	2 M. Hickman (S)	3 R. Stanford (W)
Javelin	1 S. Norris (N)	2 J. Havard (S)	3 R. Anthony (W)

Senior Girls

100m	1 M. Harries (W) *	2 L. Bashford (N)	3 K. Allen (N)
200m	1 M. Harries (W)	2 A. Snoswell (N)	3 L. Ball (S)
300m	1 L. Collett (W)	2 C. Parkinson (S)	3 S. Littler (S)
800m	1 L. Bashford (N)	2 L. Ball (S)	3 C. Wakeling (W)
4X100 "A" Race	1 Newport	2 Wells	3 Spencer
Long Jump	1 M. Harries (W)	2 A. Snoswell (N)	3 L. Collett (W)
High Jump	1 L. Ball (S)	2 L. Bashford (N)	3 K. Allen (N)
Shot	1 C. Ironmonger (S)	2 C. Mansfield (W)	3 S. Cole (N)
Discus	1 A. Whitehead (W)	2 C. Ironmonger (S)	3 R. Jones (N)
Javelin	1 E. Poulter (N)	2 J. Wood (N)	3 S. Littler (S)

Final Overall Positions

Junior Boys	1 Spencer	2 Wells	3 Newport
Junior Girls	1 Spencer	2 Wells	3 Newport
Inter Boys	1 Newport	2 Wells	3 Spencer
Inter Girls	1 Spencer	2 Wells	3 Newport
Senior Boys	1 Spencer	2 Wells	3 Newport
Senior Girls	1 Spencer	2 Wells	3 Newport

Overall Points :

	Newport	Spencer	Wells
Senior Girls	68	70	56
Senior Boys	72	70	79
Inter Girls	86	95	91
Inter Boys	100	96	80
Junior Girls	82	128	85
Junior Boys	90	110	100
Totals	498	569	491

Victor ludorum

Senior Boys : J.Taylor

Inter Boys : C.Buckle
: S.GrinsteadJunior Boys : T.Wates
: G.Platt**Victrix ludorum**

Senior Girls : M.Harries

Inter Girls ; R.Palmer

Junior Girls : J.Gilbert

School Register

Welcome, Autumn 1995

Y7 :

Caroline Archer, Amy Ball, Ria Bentley, Chloe Brown, Alexander Caithness, Stuart Chalk, Marie Coll, Adam Collins, Amy Collins, Bianca Conroy, Felicity Devlin, Sarah Escott, Nicholas Evans, Gemma Fenton, Catherine Foster, Emily Green, Michael Hales, Gemma Hall, Cameron Harris, Tom Harris, Karen Haynes, Thomas Holdstock, Amanda Howe, Richard Ireland, Christopher Janes, Stephanie Lloyd, Katie Mileto, Nichola Preston, James Richardson, Carla Suffield, Sarah Westnacott, David White.

James Bacon, James Baty, Hannah Boothman, Hannah Borrill, Laura Brittan, Vanessa Bromley, Mark Butcher, Laura Campbell, Eleanor Cunningham, Emma Double, Rebecca Edwards, Laura Ellison, Oliver Raison, Ian German, Alexander Gold, Jayne Green, Michael Halliday, Sarah Hayball, Christopher Jolliffe, Emma Lambourne, Nicola Martin, Chloe Mavrommatis, William Nock, Christopher Rees, Victoria Ricketts, Katie Salt, Jennifer Sheils, Amy Walter, Richard Watts.

Y12 :

Angel Alburto, Laura Bashford, Oliver Blakeman, Rachel Bratton, William Bright, Daniel Crilly, Alessandro D'Elia, Elspeth Dawes, Timothy Deeks, Daniela Evans, Judy Harris, Charlotte Ironmonger, Joseph Jardine, Damien Kerr, James Li, Danielle Mellings, Paul Nicholls, Victoria Norton, Laura Peacock, Ruth Reid, Heather Rich, Anastasia Robson, Caroline Skinner, Annie Susnik, Alexander Vacalopoulos, Nina Wilkins, Emma Williams, Abigail Wilson, (all from St Benedicts High School)

Soraya Araman, Victoria Benskin, Belinda Bowring, Sarah Cole, Charlotte Cooke, Matthew Evans, Samuel Freeman, Matthew Frost, Louise Hart, James Havard, Christian Henderson, Samantha Jones, Sarah Jones, Wesley Jones, Claire Kershaw, Tammy Knight, Stephanie Littler, Sebastian Norris, Charlotte Parry, Carol Walford, Carmen Whale, Gemma Woodward (all from Alcester High School); Alistair Bagshaw,

Anthony Collett, Holly Dagger, Daniel Fogarty, Stephen Gillett, Charlotte Hale, Daniel Hewitt, Christopher Lewis, Suzy Messent, Michael Moorhouse, Andrew Mullins, Lucy Richmond, Amanda Ritchie, Jessica Startin, Caroline Wakeling, (all from Studley High School) ; Gregory Dodd, David Horton, Rachael Jones, Rachel Mattimoe, Duncan Thomas (all from Henley High School); Katherine Cook, Jessica Henley, Ginika O'Korafor, Ashley Smith, Richard Smith, Robin Wells (all from St Augustine's High School); Philip Bridge and Nicholas Walters (Bromsgrove School), Robert Carrington and John Percivall (Warwick Boys' School), Tim Clarke (Princethorpe College), Timothy Davey (Sibford School), Christopher Davies (Arrow Vale High School), Katie Guest (Tudor Grange High School), Oliver Hyatt and Alexander Johnston (Kineton High School), Andrew McArthur and James Taylor (from KES), Alistair McKinnon (Ardenhurst School), Ross Mitchell, Christopher Richards and Polly Robbins (Bridley Moor High School), Kerry Perks (Edgbaston College), Hannah Saunders (King's High School, Warwick), Emily Todd (Haybridge High School), Rachel White and John Woodman (Stratford on Avon High School), Philip Witcherly (Evesham High School).

To other Years :

Rebecca Hawes (Wolsingham School), 8m; Lynsey Poulton (Breadalbane Academy), 10m, Peter Royston (Bewdley High School), 10m.

Farewell July 1996

AC :

Robert Abbott, Philip Bennett, Laura Davies, Rebecca Garner, Steven Gold, Rupert Green, Karla Johnsey, Adam Tither,

CJJ :

Sarah Cooper, Daniel Emmerson, Nicola Fletcher, Stephen Holton, Karen Hubner, Marcus Newbrook, Kay Oldham, Alison Page, Joanne Rath.

CPK :

Megan Davies, Kathryn Fox, Victoria Hawker, James Higgins, James Higginson, Yamin Juned, Paul Lunau, Keri Remes, Daniel Roden, Elizabeth Tevenan.

CRS :

Kathryn Armitage, Darren Ashworth, Sarah Bratton, Eric Gunnarsson, Sarah Harries, Thomas Henghan, Florence Heyland, Caroline Lea, Jason Stockwell, Jenna Ward, Rebecca White.

DCB :

Louise Clayton, Christopher Hart, Louise Howes, Tristan Meade, Ella Mullins, Emma Seaton-Smith, Kelly Taylor, Thomas Vincent.

DS :

John Austing, Natalie Dean, Clare Gunn, Emma Huckell, Tessa Kettleborough,
Emma Lloyd, Olivia Powis.

GRW :

Christopher Beach, James Bingham, Zoë Corbett, Jamie Davis, Victoria Fern, Nikki Pryor,
Karen Robertson, Thomas Scruby, Ruth Sheldon, Luke Symmons,

JMW :

Joanne Benstead, Claire Buesing, Sarah Clayton, Annalie Croft, Peter Griffiths,
Janina Jolliffe, Andrew Kendry, Wendy Laight, Laura Shaw.

KAJ :

Jodi Burton, Brett Green, Simon Harrison, James Murnieks, Alison Price, Helen Randall,
Melina Sapanidis, Karen Sweeney, Matthew Whitehead.

MAC :

Victoria Ball, Nicola Byrd, Simon Hiscocks, Anna Jinks, Catherine McLaren,
Louisa Soave, Jennifer Whitelock.

PDB :

Sam Barlow, Alison Blades, Claire Bowler, Alexander Comer, Lucy Gilbert,
Rebecca Johnson, James Mellor, Clare Selby, Matthew Sparkes, Clare Stockley.

PHW :

Sarah Bate, Brian Bussey, Ceri Carter, Chistian Goodhand, Arabella Moorhouse,
Zoë Morgan, James Scott, James Smith.

PJO :

Trudi Barr, Steven Bugden, Jayne Cooper, Anna Macdonald, Jill Misson, Jeffery Sealey,
Patrick Taylor.

RFD :

Claire Crouch, Stuart Dewsbury, Marisol Grandon, Andrew Haden, Alison Henstone,
Sarah Jeffery, David McElroy, Charlotte Payne, Miriam Stanley, Peter Thompson,
Clare Townsend.

Awards to Students at Leavers' Night, Autumn 1995

The Spencer Cup for best A level results	:	Martin Johnson
The Mason Cup for best GCSE results	;	Lucy Emmerson
The Bell Cup for Mathematics	;	Katharine Richards
The Laurie Brain Cup for English	:	David McElroy

Head Boy	:	Yu Ming Chan
Head Girl	:	Daisy Newey
Deputy Head Boy	:	Dominic Jinks
Deputy Head Girl	:	Dawn Davies
Distinguished Service to the School	;	Hannah Harrison Joanne Snoswell Sharon Burgess
Special Service Cup	:	Paul Hickman

Old Scholars' News

Degree Results 1996

All Students are from the 1986-93 cohort unless otherwise indicated.

Louise Dyke (1985-92), class 1 in Law at Cambridge (going on to Law School at Nottingham, then to employment with a law firm in London); **Kate Morley**, BSc class 1 in Biology at Aberystwyth; **Anna Sheldon**, BA class 2.2 in Politics & Law at Southampton (going on to employment in a Management Consultancy); **Anna Jarmy**, BA class 2.1 in German at Nottingham; **Sophie Corbett**, BEd in Physical Education, Cheltenham and Gloucester Inst of HE. (going on to a teaching appointment in Chipping Campden); **Spencer Braithwaite (1991-93)**, BSc class 2.1 in Chemistry at The Imperial College of Science, Technology and Medicine (going on to a PhD at the Royal Institute of Chemistry); **Tim Badham**, BSocSc class 2.1 in Money, Banking, Finance and Accountancy at Birmingham; **Melanie Short**, BSc class 2.1 in Environmental Geology at Sheffield; **Iain Clarke (1985-92)** BSc class 2.1 in Rural Land Management at The Royal Agricultural College, Cirencester; **Paul Robertson (1991-93)**, BSc class 2.1 in Electronic Engineering at UMIST; **Gail Kenton (1987-90)**, BArch class 2.1, Dip Arch with Distinction; **Matthew White**, class 2.1 in Law at Oxford; **Matthew Griffiths** BA class 2.2 in Financial Services at Central Lancashire; **Miranda Swinn (1985-92)** BA class 2.1 in Institutional Management at Nottingham Trent (at present working on the QE2); **Ruth Layton (1991-93)**, BSc class 2.2 in Geography at Derby (going on to PGCE at Worcester Inst. of HE); **James Clark (1985-92)**, BSc class 2.2 in Computer Science at Aberystwyth (going on to employment with Ferranti-Thompson); **Fiona Pickering (1991-93)**, BA class 2.1 in English

at Leicester; **Andrew Moore (1991-93)**, BEng class 1 in Mechanical and Materials Engineering at Loughborough; **Emily Banham (1991-93)**, BSc class 2.2 in Environmental Science & Chemistry at Leeds; **Phillippa Dunnage (1985-92)**, LLB in European Law at Warwick.

Other News 1996

Valerie Derave (1989-91), having gained her diploma in Nursing studies and her RGN, is now working in the Accident and Emergency Department at Coventry and Warwick Hospital.

Joyce Bromelle

We are sorry to report the death of Joyce Bromelle (née Plesters), an Old Scholar of real distinction. A resident of Studley, she was remembered by her contemporaries at the school as "one of a particularly bright bunch". After taking a science degree at Royal Holloway College in London, she joined the National Gallery's Scientific Department and remained there until retirement in 1987. She gained an international reputation, particularly in the field of conservation, for her skills in analysing the pigments used by the Old Masters. After the destructive Venice floods of 1966 she was asked to set up analytical laboratories in Italy to aid the task of restoring damaged art treasures. Her work not only reinforced the work of conservationists but also aided the study of art history. She died in Italy where she had retired with her husband Norman.

We are indebted to Graham Downie, Chairman of the Alcester and District Local History Society, and himself an Old Scholar, for this report.

Summary Of Examination Results Summer 1996

GCSE Results Achieved by Y11

Subject	Entries	A*	A	B	C	D	E	F	% A-C
English	64	1	14	36	13				100%
Eng.Lit	64	1	8	23	25	3	4		57%
Mathematics	64	9	25	20	10				100%
Biology	64	7	36	12	5	3	1		93%
Chemistry	64	3	20	24	12	4	1		92%
Physics	64	13	20	23	6	2			97%
History	34	2	7	11	10	4			88%
Geography	57	3	17	17	16	4			93%
French	41	5	23	9	1	3			93%

German	38	3	14	6	1				97%
HEFT	18	4	8	6					100%
Art & Design	25	2	4	10	7	2			92%
Music	19	7	8	3	1				95%
Design Tech.	23	3	9	8	1	1	1		91%
Totals	639	63	213	216	113	27	6	1	94.7%

Average number of A-C grades per candidates = 9.45

A Level Results Achieved by Y13

Subjects	Entries	A	B	C	D	E	N	U	% A-E	% A-B
Art with										
Art History	21	3	3	9	2	2	2		90	29
Biology	21	1	4	4	2	3	1	6	67	24
Chemistry	16	1	3	4	2	3	1	2	81	25
Physics	20	6	5	1	5	1	2		90	55
Economics	33		2	7	11	7	6		82	6
English	39	5	7	13	13	1			100	31
French	20	3	2	7	5	2		1	95	25
Geography	42	1	5	11	10	7	6	2	81	14
German	3	1		2					100	33
History	15	5	2	4	1	3			100	47
Mathematics	35	15	12	4	2	2			100	77
Further Maths	4	3	1						100	100
Music	6	1	2	1	2				100	50
HEFT	7		2	4	1				100	29
Theatre Studs	7		1	3	1	1	1		86	14
Design Tech.	7			2	4	1			100	
Music Tech.	2									
Hist. of Art	2		1				1		50	50
Total	300	45	52	76	61	33	20	11	89.0	32.3
Gen Studs	36	1	6	10	8	7	2	2	89	19
Total inc										
Gen Studs	336	46	58	86	69	40	22	13	89.0	31.0

AS Results Achieved by Y13

Subjects	Entries	A	B	C	D	E	N	U	%A-E	%A-B
Art & Design	2			2					100	
Business Studs	3				3				100	
Computing	17		3	9		1	2	2	76	18
Design Tech.	1				1				100	
Electronics	3	1	1			1			100	67
English	4	3			1				100	75
French	1				1				100	
Human Geog.	6	2	1	2				1	83	50
Physical Geog.	2			1			1		50	
Geology	21	4	1	4	6	2	3	1	81	24
Mathematics	13		1	1		6	2	3	62	8
Statistics	9	1	1	3	3	1			100	22
Totals	82	11	8	22	15	11	8	7	81.7	23

Results Achieved by Year 13 for Vocational Qualifications (GNVQ)

	Entries	Distinction	Merit	Pass
GNVQ Advanced				
Business	8	6	1	1
Art & Design	5	4		
GNVQ Intermediate				
Art & Design	1			1
Percentage of students achieving Vocational Qualifications				92%
National average for the GNVQs taken at AGS				54%

National Curriculum Standard Assessment Tests Taken in Year 9 in 1996

The figures are the percentage of students achieving the designated grade rounded to the nearest whole percentage point. TA - Teacher Assessment, Test - standard assessment test

Levels:	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
English										
TA	0	0	0	0	23	53	24	0	0	0
Test	0	0	0	0	14	68	18	0	0	0
Maths										
TA	0	0	0	0	2	23	64	11	0	0
Test	0	0	0	0	2	20	70	8	0	0
Science										
TA	0	0	0	0	3	47	50	0	0	0
Test	0	0	0	0	11	48	37	5	0	0

National Results for 1995 (1996 results are not available until 1997)

Levels:	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
English										
TA	1	3	13	23	30	22	9	1	0	0
Test	0	2	9	28	35	16	3	1	0	0
Maths										
TA	0	2	12	23	27	23	10	1	0	0
Test	0	2	12	21	24	23	9	1	0	0
Science										
TA	0	2	11	26	31	21	7	0	0	0
Test	0	2	10	24	31	18	7	0	0	0

Cyril Johnson

After three decades here Cyril Johnson has retired. He has hardly retired in the sense of leaving AGS completely since he has generously agreed to do a good deal of the work towards keeping alive the tradition of *The Record*, which until a few years ago he masterminded. He has also agreed to write a history of Alcester Grammar School - to be more of an outline, he insists, than a comprehensive study. I have no doubt that it will make lively and fascinating reading, for it is likely to reflect his longstanding interest in local history as well as the wit which kept the staffroom laughing.

As Head of Chemistry and, more recently, Head of Science, Cyril was an exacting teacher, whom students grew to respect increasingly as they moved through the school. Those who achieved A level Chemistry with him (and over many years very few of those who took it did not) understood just how professional and demanding his standards were; they enjoyed his humour and were challenged by his style of teaching. His colleagues, both in and out of the science area, knew that he was dedicated to doing things properly and that he had a great sense of being a servant to the school and its pupils. Through all the intense changes of the last fifteen years of education turmoil, he accepted change and ensured that it was turned to the best use for pupils, often with a calm shrug that belied the hard work he would be putting in.

He served as Teacher/Governor for two periods, including the time when the school took grant-maintained status and was a key member in ensuring a smooth transition. He was involved in running clubs and societies which sowed the seeds of long term interest for many pupils in mountain and hill walking, in photography, in industrial archaeology, canals and local history. His practical skills left happy legacies in the school's darkroom (his own conversion), the automatic weather station and a lovely series of black and white photographs, especially of school productions.

Those who worked with him remember him and his contribution to the school

with special and warm affection and wish him and Wendy a long and satisfying retirement.

I hope that readers will look forward to buying his history of the school, which it is hoped to publish by Christmas 1997.

AWS

Destinations of Leavers 1995/96

All students are going to degree course at universities unless otherwise indicated.

Robert Abbott - History at Cambridge; Kathryn Armitage - year out followed by application for nursing degree course; Darren Ashworth - Engineering at Liverpool; John Austing - Physics at Imperial; Sam Barlow - Physics at Bristol; Trudi Barr - Food and Consumer Studies at Sheffield Hallam; Sarah Bate - I.T. for Business at Aston; Christopher Beach - employment; Philip Bennett - English at Aberystwyth; Joanne Benstead - employment at Stratford Manor Hotel; James Bingham - year out on a kibbutz before '97 entry; Alison Blades - Music at Cardiff; Claire Bowler - Geography and Environmental Management at West of England; Sarah Bratton - Logistics at Aston; Claire Buesing - employment at ROBA; Steven Bugden - year out in employment and resits; Jodie Burton - Pharmacology with Toxicology at King's College, London; Brian Bussey - Engineering at Liverpool; Nicola Byrd - International Business at Plymouth; Ceri Carter - French and European Studies at Keele; Louise Clayton - History at Anglia; Sarah Clayton - Marketing at Humberside; Alex Comer - Computer Studies at Warwick; Jayne Cooper - Art Foundation at MWCFE; Sarah Cooper - Teaching at Nottingham Trent; Zöe Corbett - Teaching at Chester College of HE; Annalie Croft - nursing at Oxford Brookes; Claire Crouch - Business Management at Portsmouth; Laura Davies - Business Studies at Liverpool John Moore; Megan Davies - Environmental Biology at Manchester Metropolitan; Jamie Davis - resits at SWCFE; Natalie Dean - Archaeology & Geography at Nottingham; Stuart Dewsbury - Environmental Studies and Information Systems at Staffordshire; Daniel Emmerson - Chemistry at Durham; Victoria Fern - English at Loughborough; Nicola Fletcher - year out in employment, application for entry in '97; Kathryn Fox - Environmental Health at Manchester Metropolitan; Rebecca Garner - Ecology with Geography at Plymouth in '97; Lucy Gilbert - year out then application for entry in '97; Steven Gold - Physics at Liverpool; Christian Goodhand - HND in

Business Studies at SWCFE; Marisol Grandon - French and Hispanic Studies at Queen Mary and Westfield College, London; Brett Green - Accounting and Finance at Plymouth; Rupert Green - Geology at University College, London; Peter Griffiths - Software Engineering at Coventry; Clare Gunn - Equine Management at Moulton College; Martin Gunnarsson - resits at MWCFC; Andrew Haden - Medicine at Imperial; Sarah Harries - History at Glasgow; Simon Harrison - Geography at Plymouth; Christopher Hart - employment at *PSW*, Studley; Victoria Hawker - Biology at Aberystwyth; Tom Henghan - resits at SWCFE; Alison Henstone - Business Studies at Nottingham Trent; Florence Heyland - a year out; James Higgins - Business Studies at Coventry; James Higginson - employment with *Lazey Clothing*; Simon Hiscocks - Audio Technology at Anglia; Stephen Holton - Computer Aided Product Design at Wolverhampton; Louise Howes - HND in Business and Finance at SWCFE; Karen Hubner - Food and Consumer Studies at Sheffield Hallam; Emma Huckell - Geography at Queen Mary and Westfield College, London; Sarah Jeffery - French and Business Admin. at Keele; Anne Jinks - a year out working at Alton Castle Youth Residential Home, then entry for Teaching at Lancaster in '97; Karla Johnsey - Physiology at Bristol; Rebecca Johnson - Hospitality Management at Central England; Janina Jolliffe - A levels at Abbey Tutorial College; Yazmin Juned - Land Economy at Cambridge; Andrew Kendry - Mathematics at Bath; Tessa Kettleborough - Horticulture at Pershore College of Horticulture; Wendy Laight - a year out; Caroline Lea - Humanities at Nottingham Trent; Emma Lloyd - Geography at Swansea; Paul Lunau - Mathematics at Bath; David McElroy - English at King's College, London; Catherine McLaren - employment combined with part time studies in History at Birmingham School of Continuing Studies, leading to BA in integrated studies; Tristran Meade - a year out; James Mellor - Engineering at Bristol; Jill Misson - German & Russian at Bristol; Arabella Moorhouse - Geology at Aberystwyth; Zöe Morgan - Biology at Cardiff; Ella Mullins - B.Tec in Popular Music at Solihull FE College; James Murnieks - Engineering at Manchester; Marcus Newbrook - Automotive Engineering Design at Coventry; Alison Page - Geography at Portsmouth; Charlotte Payne - Performer's Diploma in Music at The Welsh College of Music and Drama; Olivia Powis - a year working in Namibia, then '97 entry for Linguistics and Anthropology at Manchester; Alison Price - Retail Management at Loughborough; Nikki Pryor - Art Foundation at MWCFC; Helen Randall - Marketing at Plymouth; Joanne Rath - Marketing at Humberside; Keri Remes - a year out in Australia, then 97 entry to Plymouth; Karen Robertson - Special French at Hull; Daniel Roden - Business Studies at Plymouth; Melina Sapanidis - employment with *Girl Friday*; James Scott - Information Systems Management at Bournemouth; Tom Scruby - Business Studies at Exeter; Jeff Sealey - HND in Computer

Studies at SWCFE; Emma Seaton-Smith - Art & Design Foundation at Worcester College of Technology; Clare Selby - Teaching at North East Wales Institute of HE; Laura Shaw - Combined Studies at Leicester; Ruth Sheldon - Business Studies and German at Hull; James Smith - a year out in employment then reapplication in '97; Louisa Soave - International Marketing Management at Bournemouth; Matthew Sparkes - Art Foundation at MWCFC; Miriam Stanley - French and Spanish at Bristol; Clare Stockley - Hotel and Catering Management at Portsmouth; Jason Stockwell - Art Foundation at MWCFC; Karen Sweeney - Geography and Geology at Manchester; Luke Symmons - Metallurgy and Materials Science at Birmingham; Kelly Taylor - Art Foundation at MWCFC; Patrick Taylor - employment; Elizabeth Tevenan - a year out working with the elderly, then entry in '97 for Nursing; Peter Thompson - resits at SWCFE; Adam Tither Architectural Studies at Bath; Clare Townsend - a year out working at Alton Castle Youth Residential Home, then '97 entry for Psychology & Music at Liverpool Institute of HE; Tom Vincent - a year out in Ghana then '97 entry for Industrial Geology at Camborne School of Mines; Jenna Ward - Communication Studies and English at Anglia; Rebecca White - Zoology at Manchester; Matthew Whitehead - a year out in Australia, then '97 entry to Portsmouth for Marine Biology; Jennifer Whitelock - International Business at Plymouth.

Games Results 1995-96

Girls' Games			P	W	D
Hockey	1st XI		10		3
	U16 XI		4	1	1
	U15 XI		7	4	
	U14 XI		9	4	3
	U13 XI		9	1	1
	U12 XI		3	1	
	Mixed I		1		
NetBall	6th VII		4	1	
	U16 VII		4	3	
	U15 VII		11	7	
	U14 VII		16	14	1
	U13 VII		10	7	
	U12 VII		14	6	1

Rounders	6th IX	1	
	U16 IX	1	1
	U15 IX	5	4
	U14 IX	6	5
	U13 IX	6	5
	U12 IX	5	2
Tennis	U15	4	4
	U14	3	3
	U13	1	1

Boys' Games

		P	W	D
Rugby	1st XV	8	3	
	Y11	4	1	
	Y10	4		
	Y9	7	1	
	Y8	12	4	
	Y7	4	2	
Soccer	1st XI	5	3	
	Y10	3	1	
	Y9	3	3	
	Y8	5	3	
	Y7	5	3	
Cricket	1st XI	2	0	
	Y10	5	2	
	Y9	6	3	(tied 1)
	Y8	6	3	
	Y7	4	2	

County Representation - Boys and Girls

County Cross Country Representatives

David Hawkes, Matthew Frost, Sarah Bratton, Liz Wakeling, James Bowler, Ian Hickman,

County Hockey Representatives

Kate Lisle (Warwickshire U18 XI), Alexis Carter (Warwickshire U14 XI), Fiona Gibson (Worcestershire U16 XI and U18 XI; also England U16 XI and U18 development squad).

County Athletics (Field and Track) Representatives

Alexis Carter (outstanding achievements in multi-events athletics), Oliver Raison (Triple Jump), Colin Robertson (multi-events), Gemma Collins (High Jump), Liz Wakeling, Hannah Marshall (800m), Lyndsey McFarlane (discus), James Bowler (High Jump, Long Jump, multi-events), Ian Hickman (800m, multi-events), Adam Collins (High Jump)

Here ends The Record No.162